



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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**NOTE TO EDITORS AND REPORTERS:** This news release contains information about both the 2012 junior class and 2012 graduating senior class ACT results. The two sets of data should not be directly compared.

ACT, Inc. does not provide district- or school-level results for the graduating senior class to KDE or CPE. The company does provide those results for the junior class.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Both the juniors' and graduating seniors' data are correlated to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's (CPE's) college readiness benchmarks.

### **ACT RESULTS FOR JUNIORS AND GRADUATES SHOW IMPROVEMENT**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Overall results from the 2012 administration of the ACT to Kentucky's public school juniors and public school graduates show improvements in all subject areas. The overall composite scores for both juniors and graduating seniors increased slightly from 2011 to 2012.

"These data are part of Kentucky schools' and districts' College/Career Ready Rates, and the increases show that our administrators and teachers are focused on the ultimate goal of preparing students for life after high school," said Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. "While the increases in scores are small, they indicate an intensified emphasis on college/career readiness."

Kentucky's Unbridled Learning accountability model includes a college/career readiness component, through which schools and districts will be held accountable for the percentage of students who are considered ready for college and/or careers. The college-ready indicator includes students who met the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) Systemwide Benchmarks for reading (20), English (18) and mathematics (19) on any administration of the ACT.

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CPE has set systemwide standards for college readiness based on ACT's English, mathematics and reading assessments. Meeting the Kentucky systemwide standards of readiness guarantees students access to credit-bearing coursework without the need for developmental education or supplemental courses.

Because the data reported in this release are used as one component of the College/Career Readiness Rate, the data related to both juniors and graduating seniors are correlated to those benchmarks for the first time. More data connected to the Unbridled Learning accountability model will be released in mid-October.

### **RESULTS FROM THE 2012 ACT ADMINISTRATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS**

Since 2008, as mandated by KRS 158.6453, all of Kentucky's public school juniors participate in the ACT, which assesses English, reading, mathematics and science and is scored on a scale of 1 to 36. The cost of the exam is paid for by state funds. In spring 2012, 44,516 public school juniors took the ACT.

The overall composite score for juniors increased from 18.8 in 2011 to 19.0 in 2012.

#### **2011 AND 2012 KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS – OVERALL ACT RESULTS**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Kentucky Public School Students Tested</b>	44,053	44,516
<b>English Average Score</b>	18.0	18.4
<b>Mathematics Average Score</b>	18.5	18.8
<b>Reading Average Score</b>	19.0	19.0
<b>Science Average Score</b>	19.0	19.1
<b>Composite</b>	18.8	19.0

#### **PERCENTAGES OF 2012 KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIORS MEETING CPE'S SYSTEMWIDE STANDARDS FOR COLLEGE READINESS**

<b>COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSE</b>	<b>BENCHMARK</b>	<b>% 2012 JUNIORS MEETING</b>
<b>English</b>	18	52.2%
<b>Mathematics</b>	19	38.6%
<b>Reading</b>	20	41.9%

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KRS 158.6453 mandates that Kentucky's public school students participate in the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) from ACT. The state assesses public school 8th graders using the EXPLORE test, public school 10th graders with the PLAN test and public school 11th graders through the ACT.

Composite scores for most ethnic groups of public school juniors showed some improvement.

#### **2011 AND 2012 KENTUCKY JUNIORS' ACT COMPOSITE SCORES BY ETHNIC GROUP AND GENDER**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>2011 COMPOSITE</b>	<b>2012 COMPOSITE</b>
<b>All Students</b>	18.8	19.0
<b>African Am./Black</b>	16.0	16.1
<b>Am. Indian/Alaska Native</b>	16.7	16.5
<b>Caucasian Am./White</b>	19.2	19.4
<b>Hispanic</b>	17.4	17.6
<b>Asian</b>	21.1	21.0
<b>Hawaiian/Oth. Pacific Islander</b>	18.6	18.2
<b>Two or more races</b>	19.1	19.1
<b>Other/No Response</b>	18.0	18.8
<b>Males</b>	18.5	18.6
<b>Females</b>	19.0	19.3
<b>No Gender Response</b>	16.1	16.4

#### **RESULTS FROM THE 2012 ACT ADMINISTRATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIORS**

The 2012 composite ACT score for Kentucky public school graduating seniors is 19.5, compared to 2011's composite of 19.2. Nationally, the 2012 composite score is 21.1, and the composite for 2011 also was 21.1. The national composite score includes both public and non-public school test-takers.

#### **2011 AND 2012 KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATING SENIORS – OVERALL ACT RESULTS**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Kentucky Public School Students Tested</b>	42,196	41,851
<b>English Average Score</b>	18.7	19.0
<b>Mathematics Average Score</b>	18.8	19.1
<b>Reading Average Score</b>	19.6	19.8
<b>Science Average Score</b>	19.3	19.5
<b>Composite</b>	19.2	19.5

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**PERCENTAGES OF 2012 KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES MEETING CPE'S  
SYSTEMWIDE STANDARDS FOR COLLEGE READINESS**

<b>COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSE</b>	<b>BENCHMARK</b>	<b>% 2012 GRADUATES MEETING</b>
<b>English</b>	18	56.2%
<b>Mathematics</b>	19	41.6%
<b>Reading</b>	20	46.5%

Some of the low percentages of Kentucky public school students meeting the benchmarks can be attributed to the larger population of students who took the ACT and to some students' status as 11th graders who have not yet completed all of the credits necessary for graduation.

Composite scores for most ethnic groups of public school graduates showed some improvement.

**2011 AND 2012 KENTUCKY PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES' ACT COMPOSITE SCORES  
BY ETHNIC GROUP AND GENDER**

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>2011 COMPOSITE</b>	<b>2012 COMPOSITE</b>
<b>All Students</b>	19.2	19.5
<b>African American</b>	16.4	16.6
<b>American Indian</b>	17.1	17.2
<b>White</b>	19.7	19.9
<b>Hispanic</b>	17.8	18.0
<b>Asian</b>	22.3	21.8
<b>Hawaiian/Oth. Pacific Islander</b>	19.8	18.1
<b>Two or more races</b>	19.1	19.8
<b>Other/No Response</b>	17.8	18.3
<b>Males</b>	19.1	19.3
<b>Females</b>	19.4	19.6
<b>No Gender Response</b>	15.9	16.2

Kentucky is one of only a few states that has implemented the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS) from ACT, Inc. and, through 2006's Senate Bill 130, administers the ACT to all public school juniors. The state assesses public school 8th graders using the EXPLORE test and assesses public school 10th graders with the PLAN test through EPAS.

To compile information for the release of 2012 graduating class data, ACT, Inc. used students' scores from the last time they took the test. Since the ACT is administered to all Kentucky public high school juniors, some of those students may not have taken the ACT again as 12th graders.

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The overall ACT Assessment consists of tests in four areas: English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. ACT, Inc. recommends that college-bound students take four or more years of English; three or more years of mathematics (including Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and geometry); three or more years of social studies; and three or more years of natural sciences. ACT, Inc. defines specific courses in these areas. Kentucky's graduation requirements define four credits in English; three in mathematics; three in social studies; three in science; one in history and appreciation of visual and performing arts; and one-half each in health and physical education.

Many Kentucky colleges and universities use ACT scores to inform admissions decisions and to place students in appropriate college courses. ACT scores also are used, along with high school grade point averages, to determine the amount of money high school graduates are eligible to receive through the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship program.

Although ACT is one component of the college and career readiness measurements that schools and districts will be held accountable for, today's data cannot be used to calculate those measurements for a number of reasons:

- The Grade 11 ACT Reports contain juniors' data, and the college/career-ready rate (CCRR) will be based on the ACT scores of actual 2012 graduates.
- The CCRR takes into account all the administrations of the ACT across multiple years.
- The best score in each domain from all administrations across multiple years will be used in the CCRR calculation.
- Graduating senior data from ACT include only the last ACT administration, which may not represent the best score.
- The CCRR also will include graduates who passed a college placement test (Compass or KYOTE) for the college-ready component.
- The CCCR also will include graduates who met benchmarks for Career-Ready Academic (ASVAB or ACT WorkKeys®) or Career-Ready Technical (KOSSA or received an Industry-Recognized Career Certificate) for the career-ready component.

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